GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3787
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
SETTING UP OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to balance the drive for greater enrolment at the college and university level with limited financial resources the Government is planning ways to promote distance education and open universities;

(b) if so, whether it has been proposed that during the 10th plan period, every State should set up at least one open university;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are also plans for a dedicated television channel for general higher education;

(e) if so, the number of total colleges and universities during the 9th plan; and

(f) the extent to which these are likely to increase during the 10th plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) to (f): The Government has been encouraging growthof Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system in thecountry and during the 10th Plan period it is proposed to increase the enrolment in the ODL system to the extent of40% from the existing 20% in the Higher Education Sector. While in the 9th Planperiod, there were ten Open Universities, including Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU),and 64 Correspondence Courses Institutes (CCIs), in the 10thPlan 8 new State Open Universities are envisaged and 35 new CCIs of the conventional Universities would be brought under the ODL system.

The Government has established a 24 hours dedicated educational T.V. Channel, Gyan Darshan for highereducation through ODL system. Recently, on 26th January, 2003 another Channel, Eklavya Channel, dedicated for technical education has been launched.